

REMARKS

The Specification / Drawings

The specification is amended on page 9 to identify what is labeled “(3)” in figures 1 and 3; thus, rendering moot the objections to the drawings.

In two paragraphs in the specification, the translation interchangeably used the terms “vessel” and “chamber.” To avoid any possible confusion, the specification is amended to further clarify the language.

A section labeled “Brief Description of the Drawings” is inserted.

The arrangement of the specification is not modified otherwise, since the arrangement of the specification provided in 37 CFR 1.77(b) are guidelines, which are not required to be followed.

The Office Action also alleges that it is not clear what is meant by the term “cuts.” The term in context, i.e., C₂ to C₅ cuts, is a term of art commonly used in industry and it refers to the part of a mixed hydrocarbon composition which is separated, i.e., cut away from the rest of the hydrocarbons. C₂ to C₅ cuts contain C₂ to C₅ hydrocarbons.

The Office Action also alleges that numerous places in the specification the letter “s” should be changed to “z,” i.e., the spelling is in European format of some words. Applicants respectfully decline to amend these as the European format is not incorrect, but only alternative. Going through the specification to find all occurrences of European format spelling and changing the same to conventional US format takes time, and thus costs money to the client, which expense they do not wish to incur for merely format changing.

Abstract

An abstract on a separate page is attached.

The Rejections Under 35 USC § 112, second paragraph

These rejections are moot in view of the amendments. Claim 1 is amended to remove the alleged indefinite expression and in claims 5, 21 and 22, antecedent support is provided for the “head” section.

The Rejections Under 35 USC § 102 and 103

Applicants respectfully disagree with the rejections. There are some clear structural difference between the reference’s structures and the claimed structures, and no teaching or

suggestion is provided by the reference for modification which would lead one of ordinary skill in the art to the claimed structures.

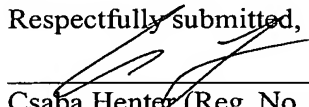
The reference teaches a device where fluid exchange boxes (9) surround a central chamber (25). See column 2, and the figures. The exchange boxes (9) and central chamber (25) are connected by openings (70) and tube (38) is provided with openings (71). See column 6, lines 41-46 and the figures. Thus, the exchange boxes and central chamber are not imperforately separated, but rather connected by openings for the exchange of materials. This exchange of materials leads to the fluid from the exchange boxes being mixed in the central chamber (25). See column 5, line 9 to 26. To improve mixing, the central chamber (25) is provided with a mixing device (60). See column 5, lines 27-30, and figure 5. Thus, in sum, material enters the fluid exchange boxes, from where it enters the central chamber where it is mixed, i.e., mixing occurs inside the device.

On the contrary, the claimed device has tubes, which are imperforate within the chamber, and have a free end outside said chamber, where the second fluid passing through the tubes exists and mixes with the first fluid from the chamber, which exits the device through orifices (7,8). Thus, mixing is outside of the device, and not within it, unlike as it is in the reference device. Mixing of the two fluids in the claimed device does not take place in the device itself since the tubes are imperforate within the chamber, and thus, the second fluid cannot enter the chamber.

Reconsideration is respectfully requested.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any fees associated with this response or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 13-3402.

Respectfully submitted,


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